

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: **Katsuhiko OKADA et al.**

Serial Number: **Not Yet Assigned**  
(PCT/JP01/02635)

Filed: **November 27, 2001**

For: **PRODUCTION METHOD FOR POWDER COATING, POWDER COATING,  
AND PAINT FILM FORMATION METHOD**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

November 27, 2001

Sir:

Prior to the calculation of the filing fees of the above application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Methods of removing solvent from a powder coating raw materials solution by using a supercritical fluid have also been proposed (Japanese Unexamined Patent Application, First Publication No. Hei 8-113652 and Published Japanese Translation No. Hei 8-503721 of PCT International Publication), although in these methods, operations need to be performed under high pressure conditions, and so a problem arises in that the equipment required for production is extremely expensive, making the methods inappropriate for industrial production.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Particularly representative examples of the curing agent (B) in those cases where the curable reactive group of the main constituent resin (A) is an epoxy group include succinic acid, glutaric acid, adipic acid, pimelic acid, suberic acid, azelaic acid, sebacic acid, dodecanedioic acid, eicosanedicarboxylic acid, maleic acid, citraconic acid, itaconic acid, glutaconic acid, phthalic acid, tetrahydrophthalic acid, hexahydrophthalic acid, cyclohexene-1,2-dicarboxylic acid, trimellitic acid and pyromellitic acid, or acid anhydrides of these acids, and of these materials, aliphatic dibasic acids are preferred due to their superior paint film properties and storage stability, with dodecanedioic acid being particularly desirable due to the particularly superior paint film properties it offers.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

glycerine alkyl ethers and glycerine alkyl esters; ketones such as diisobutyl ketone, methyl amyl ketone, cyclohexanone, and isophorone; esters such as 2-ethylbutyl acetate, 2-ethylhexyl acetate, cyclohexyl acetate, isoamyl propionate, alkyl butyrate esters, alkyl stearate esters, alkyl benzoate esters, alkyl adipate esters and dialkyl phthalate esters; and

REMARKS

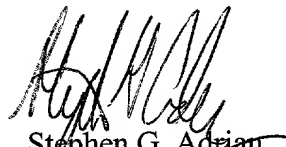
The above amendment is believed to correct typographical errors reflected in the translation into English of the PCT application. Early and favorable action is awaited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

In the event there are any additional fees required, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Paragraph beginning at line 4 of page 3 has been amended as follows:

Methods of removing solvent from a powder coating raw materials solution by using a supercritical fluid have also been proposed (Japanese Unexamined Patent Application, First Publication No. Hei 8-113652 and ~~Japanese Examined Patent Application, Second Publication~~ Published Japanese Translation No. Hei 8-503721 of PCT International Publication), although in these methods, operations need to be performed under high pressure conditions, and so a problem arises in that the equipment required for production is extremely expensive, making the methods inappropriate for industrial production.

Paragraph beginning at line 17 of page 16 has been amended as follows:

Particularly representative examples of the curing agent (B) in those cases where the curable reactive group of the main constituent resin (A) is an epoxy group include succinic acid, glutaric acid, adipic acid, pimelic acid, suberic acid, azelaic acid, sebacic acid, dodecanedioic acid, eicosanedicarboxylic acid, maleic acid, citraconic acid, itaconic acid, glutaconic acid, phthalic acid, ~~trimellitic acid, pyromellitic acid,~~ tetrahydrophthalic acid, hexahydrophthalic acid, cyclohexene-1,2-dicarboxylic acid, trimellitic acid and pyromellitic acid, or acid anhydrides of these acids, and of these materials, aliphatic dibasic acids are preferred due to their superior paint film properties and storage stability, with dodecanedioic acid being particularly desirable due to the particularly superior paint film properties it offers.

Paragraph beginning at line 13 of page 23 has been amended as follows:

glycerine alkyl ethers and glycerine alkyl esters; ketones such as diisobutyl ketone, methyl amyl ketone, cyclohexanone, and isophorone; esters such as ~~cyclohexyl acetate~~, 2-ethylbutyl acetate, 2-ethylhexyl acetate, cyclohexyl acetate, isoamyl propionate, alkyl butyrate esters, alkyl stearate esters, alkyl benzoate esters, alkyl adipate esters and dialkyl phthalate esters; and